



Mark Janiuk
Village Administrator
262/884-2480
villageadmin@sturtevant-wi.gov
2801 89th Street
Sturtevant, WI 53177

October 6, 2011

Re: Senate Bill 153

Senate Committee on Labor, Public Safety and Urban Affairs

This letter is a follow up to my verbal comments at the public hearing before the Senate Committee on Labor, Public Safety and Urban Affairs on September 29, 2011 concerning Senate Bill 153. At that hearing, I was asked by the committee to submit a written summary of my comments.

Sturtevant is a small village in southeastern Wisconsin. The Village has a population of 6,970. Sturtevant currently has 17 full time employees. Sturtevant does not participate in the Wisconsin Retirement System. Instead, its Department of Public Works employees, who are teamsters, participate in the Teamsters Central States Pension Program. All other full time employees receive payments to the Wisconsin Deferred Benefit Program which are paid by the Village.

Under present law, Sturtevant is not able to participate in the State of Wisconsin's Health Insurance Program because the Village is not part of the Wisconsin Retirement Program. Senate Bill 153 addresses this issue and would allow Sturtevant, as well as other municipalities in a similar position, to participate in the State of Wisconsin's Health Insurance Program. Sturtevant strongly supports the passage of Senate Bill 153.

In prior years, Sturtevant experienced vast swings in its costs for health insurance. The Village was only able to get one year contracts which were based on the loss experience of its small group of employees and their families in the immediate prior years. Rates often varied by 20% per year. The price quotes from the insurance companies would arrive in early November when the Village was at the end of its budget approval process which often led to unpleasant last minute adjustments in the village budget just before adoption.

In 2010, Sturtevant was able to enter into a three year contract with the Central States Health Insurance Program. This program provided the Village with stable competitive health insurance rates. Unfortunately, this offering is tied to the village employees who are teamsters. If the teamster local decertifies, the Village would lose this health insurance option. The Village can not predict what the local teamsters will do but the Village needs the option of the State Health Insurance Program. The State Health Insurance Program would offer Sturtevant, other the similarly situated municipalities, stable competitive health insurance coverage for its full time employees. The Village urges the committee to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Mark Janiuk

Mark Janiuk

MUNICIPAL OFFICE
2801 89th Street
Sturtevant, WI 53177

Ph: 262/886-7201
Fax: 262/886-7205



October 6, 2011

Senate Committee on Labor, Public Safety and Urban Affairs

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

I currently have the privilege of serving my third term as trustee for the Village of Sturtevant. During that time we have made efforts to be fiscally responsible in our decisions. One area that has been difficult to control is health insurance costs. When I was first elected we had 35 full time employees. During that time with a small amount of employees the rates we were given would vary widely. Also because the risk was spread over a small amount of people the rates would often be higher. Two years ago we switched to coverage with Central States which is tied to the Teamsters Union. We can only take part in this as long as we have a local Teamsters Union. With only four members in the local union it is not guaranteed that they will recertify. If this were to happen we would be forced to go back to the private market. However, we now have 17 fulltime employees which will likely cause much higher rates.

We are asking that you to approve SB 153. This will allow us to participate in the state insurance pool and allow us to find more affordable health coverage for our employees. Because Sturtevant does not participate in the Wisconsin Retirement System we are currently unable to participate. It would be too cost prohibitive to move our current DPW employees from their Teamsters pension plan. SB 153 will allow us and other smaller communities to find more stable and cost effective coverage.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Wright".

Chris Wright
Trustee
Village of Sturtevant

